



NEWS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2012

12-06

DON'T GET STUCK IN A PINCH,
ALWAYS DESIGNATE A NON-DRINKING DRIVER

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – For some, St. Patrick's Day brings Irish luck and celebration. For the California Highway Patrol (CHP), the holiday places an emphasis on enforcement of impaired driving. This year, St. Patrick's Day falls on a Saturday, which makes for a weekend full of festivities.

"We encourage St. Patrick's Day revelers to be responsible in their celebration and designate a non-drinking driver who can provide a safe ride home," said CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow. "Designating a sober driver is one way to avoid an arrest for driving under the influence (DUI), or worse, a collision."

On St. Patrick's Day in 2010, the latest year that statistics are available, there were 119 alcohol-involved collisions statewide, which resulted in two people killed and at least 63 people injured. If the number of collisions is not enough to deter drivers who may be impaired, consider that last year on St. Patrick's Day, a total of 206 drivers were arrested statewide for DUI by the CHP.

"Don't submit to peer pressure. Set the example for your friends and be the designated driver. You will do them and yourself a favor," said Commissioner Farrow.

The CHP also reminds motorists to report suspected drunk drivers. Call 911, so law enforcement can remove the intoxicated driver from the roadway before someone is injured or killed. Be prepared to give dispatchers a description of the vehicle, its location, and direction of travel.

"Plan ahead and make it a safe, sober holiday for all," said CHP Commissioner Farrow.

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